THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Planning Commission has suggested to the State Governments to consider using Public Private Partnership (PPP) to improve utilization of existing hospitals, and also to create and expand hospital facilities in the future.

(c) to (e) The Approach Paper to the XI Five Year states that the poor are forced to approach private practitioners who charge exorbitant fees due to inadequate and non-performing public health infrastructure. Approach Paper to the XI Five Year Plan has suggested to experiment with different systems of private public partnership, examples of which already exist in some States. This is with the objective of creating competition in the health service sector and empowering health service seekers to exercise choice.

Assessment of GDP by RBI

†4663. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per an assessment of the Reserve Bank of India, the growth rate of Gross Domestic Products likely to reach 9.2 per cent during the year 2006-07;

(b) if not, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the growth rate of agricultural sector is likely to be reduced again in the said year; and

(d) if so, the possibility of this shortfall in the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) A recent Report released by the Reserve Bank of India entitled 'Macroeconomic and Monetary Developments in 2006-07' states that according to the advance estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to be 9.2%, (at factor cost, at constant 1999-2000 prices) during the year 2006-07.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the advance estimates of CSO, the growth rate of agricultural sector is likely to be 2.7% in the year 2006-07, which is less than the growth rate of 6% realised for the sector for the year 2005-06 (based on the Quick Estimates for 2005-06 of CSO).

Process of assessment of poverty

†4664. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the whole process of assessing poverty by the Planning Commission is arbitrary in which the assessment of poverty is done quite less than the actual situation;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are various agencies like the Ministry of Rural Development and the States to prescribe the norms of poverty and which also prescribe the status of BPL in the country; and

(c) whether Government would prescribe uniform norms for identifying the poor people in order to assess the people living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commision estimates the incidence of poverty by counting the persons below an exogenous determined cut-off level of expenditure, known as the poverty line, from the consumption distribution obtained from the National Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure. An Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.T. Lakdawala with eminent persons as members finalised the methodology of poverty estimation that is now being used by the Planning Commission. The method used by the Planning Commission to estimate poverty is internationally accepted.

(b) and (c) The estimation of poverty by the Planning Commission and the BPL (Below Poverty Line) Census carried out by the Ministry of Rural Development to identify the BPL families in the rural areas are two separate exercises. The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure obtained

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.